

Citywide Skatepark Planning Process

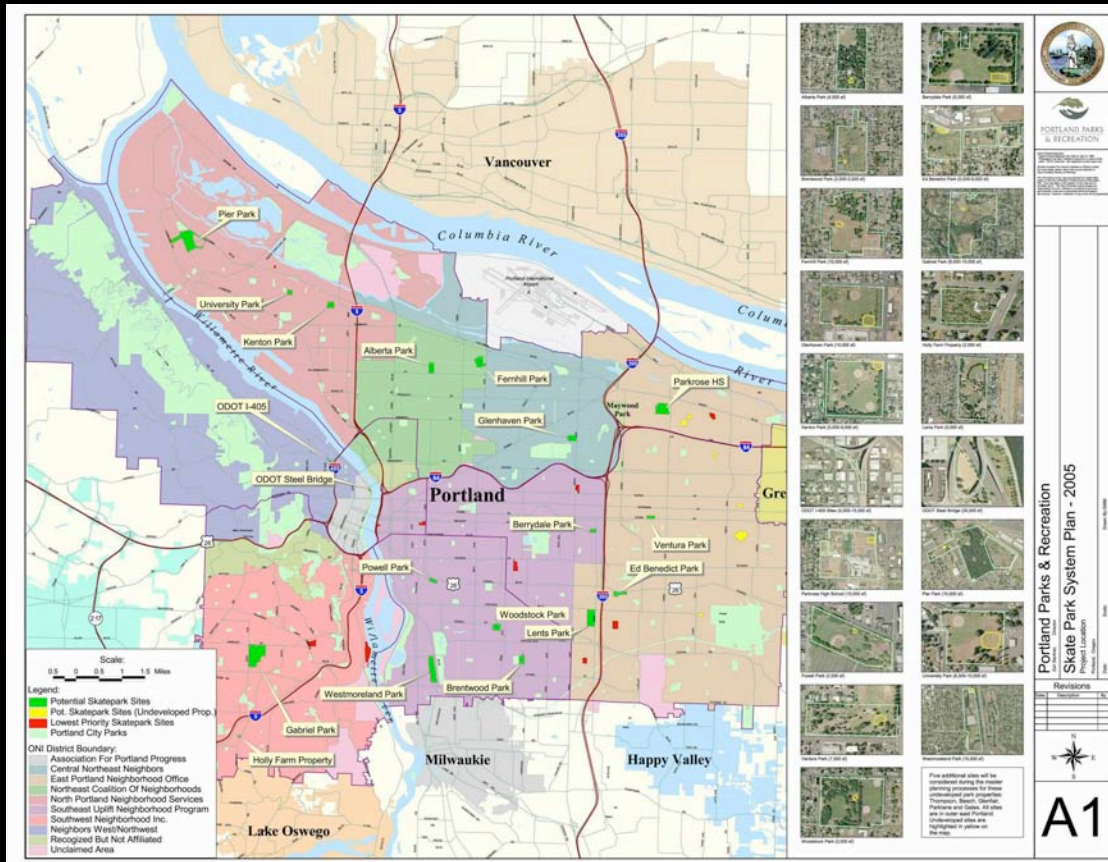


How'd we get here?

- 2000 - \$198M million Pro Parks Levy
- Skatepark planning not included in Levy
- 2003 - City recognized growing popularity of skateboarding
- Locating skatepark is a sensitive process
- City wants comprehensive plan with public involvement

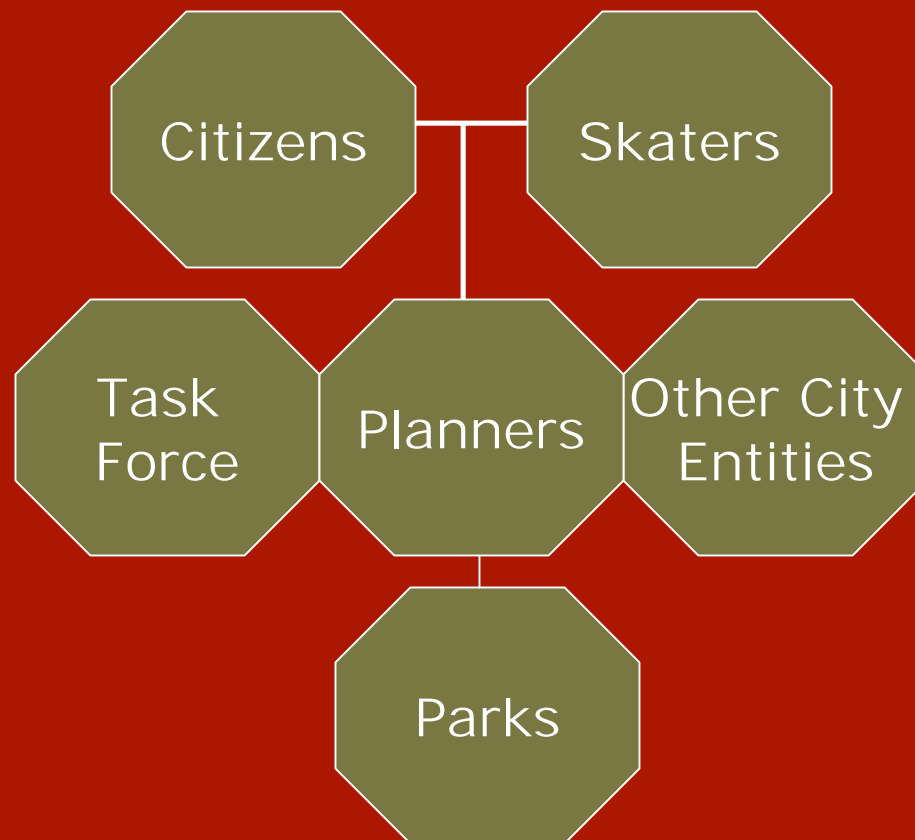


What's a Comprehensive City-wide Skatepark Plan?



- What?
- For who?
- Why?
- Where?
- How?
- When?

Who's involved?

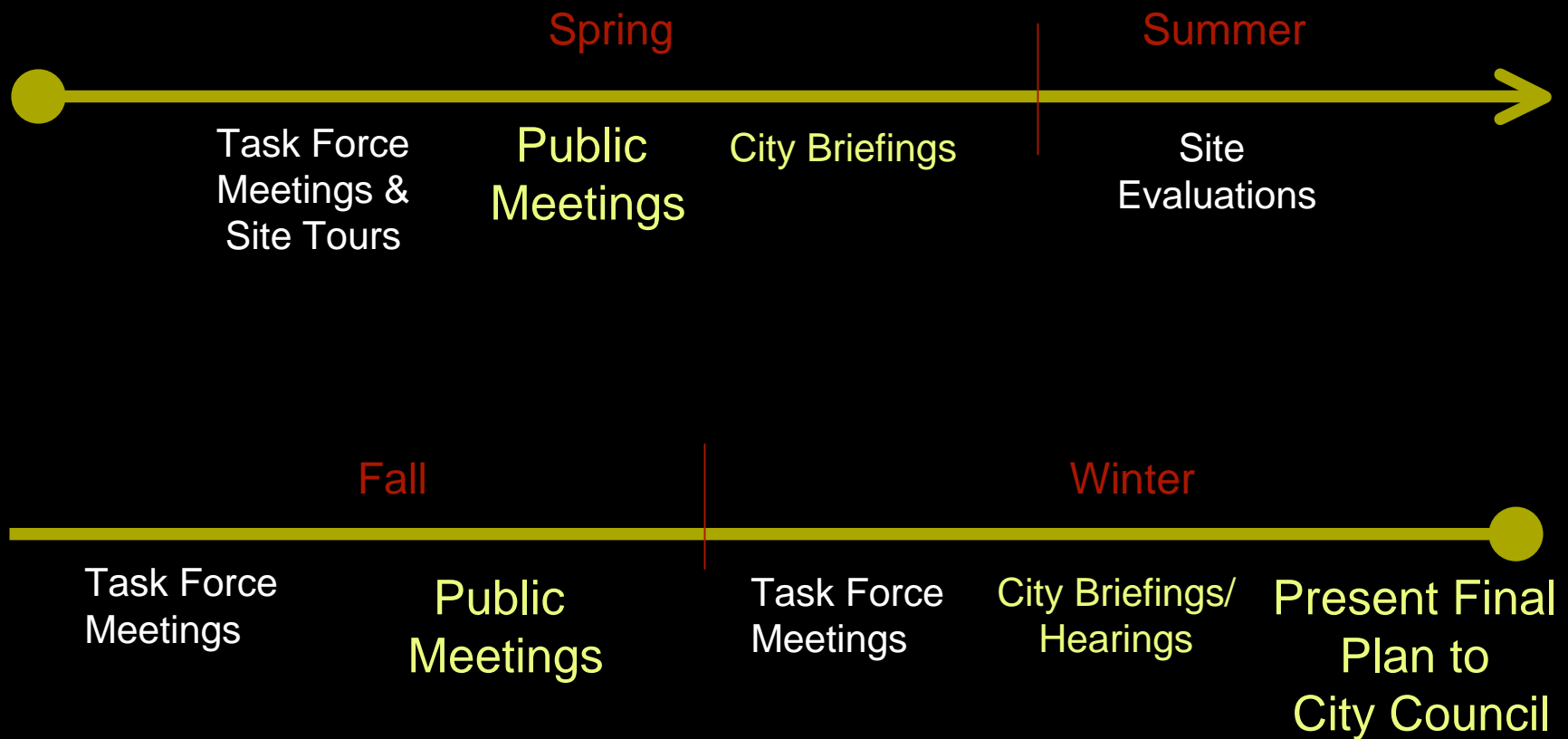


Your participation is crucial

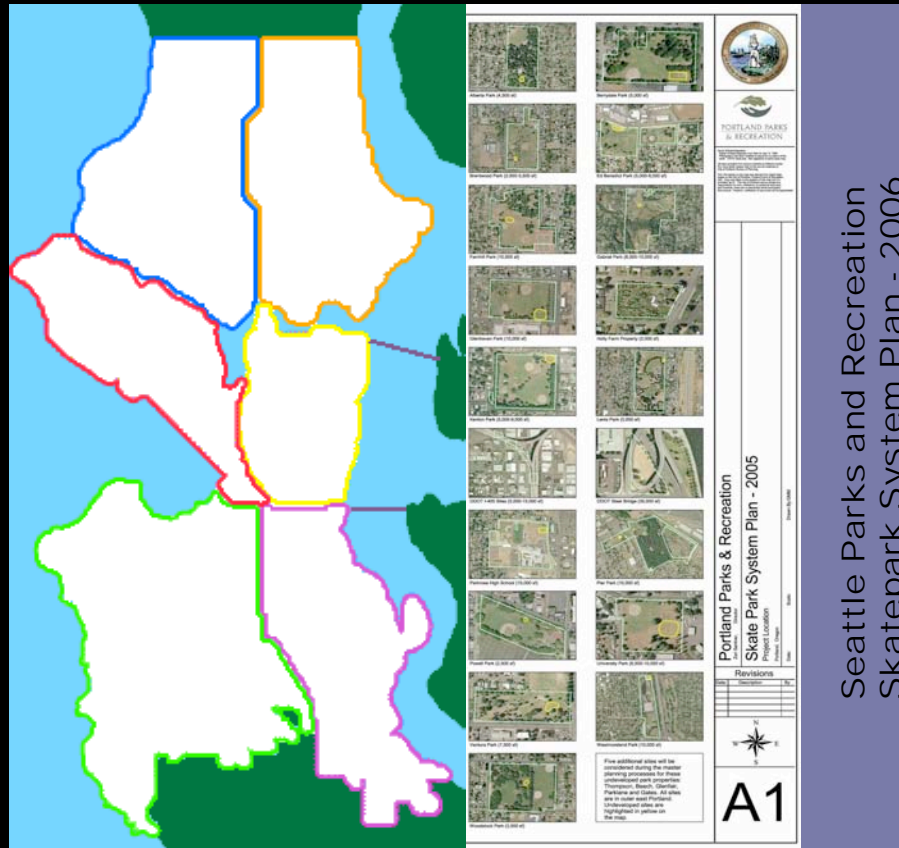
- Give us your ideas, concerns and comments.
- Participate:
 - Today
 - Online
 - Through the mail
 - Public meetings this Fall
 - Public hearings



Planning Overview



Once the PLAN is finished - what next?



- Plan is adopted
- Parks may include funding in budget
- Communities can apply for grants

So, let's talk about Skateboarding



Skateboarding's Popularity



- Estimated 10.6 M skateboarders in U.S.
- 2nd fastest growing sport only behind snowboarding
- 2002 estimate approx. 3 new parks open each week in the U.S.
- Over 100 skateparks in WA, but only 4 in Seattle
 - Public & Private

Skateboarding around the world



Canada



Belgium



Japan



Italy

World's Largest Skatepark



Who are skateboarders?



Is Skateboarding just a fad?

Data from National Sporting Goods Association

<http://www.nsga.org/public/pages/index.cfm?pageid=152>

<i>Activity</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
Snowboarding	3.3	6.6	98.3 %
Skateboarding	7.0	10.3	48.6%
Ice Hockey	1.9	2.4	28.9%
Soccer	13.2	13.3	.05%
Baseball	16.3	15.9	-2.9%
Football	8.7	8.2	-5.8%
Basketball	29.6	27.8	-6.0%
Tennis	10.9	9.6	-11.9%
Softball	14.7	12.5	-15.7%

Participated more than once (in millions), age 7 and greater. 77% of our citizens do not participate in organized sports

Benefits of Skateboarding

- In 2002, American Demographics surveyed 3,200 kids between the ages of 12 & 17.
 - 23% reported that they skateboard
- Promotes physical fitness, self-esteem, and provides an unorganized activity for our youth
- Alternative to expensive organized sports
- Good for those who don't want to play on a team or can't make the team
- Helps build bonds between generations



Skateparks aren't just about skateboarding

- Create a safe, integrated space for youth and observers
- Fosters positive interaction between different users of public space



Photo courtesy of Mark Tagel



So why aren't there more skateparks in Seattle?

- Neighborhood concerns
 - Lack of clear siting process
 - Perceptions about skateparks & skateboarders

Perception

- Skateparks:

- Attract criminals

- Full of trash

- Noisy

- Places of drinking and drug use

- Graffiti ridden

- Are dangerous

Reality

- No evidence that skateparks attract criminals or contribute to serious crime

There is a "fear of crime based on the appearance of some skaters. This is a perception, not a reality. There is no higher crime at the skatepark than anywhere else in the city" - West Linn, OR

Reality

- Trash occurs due to heavy use, but is manageable
 - Despite the need for increased management, skateparks are overwhelmingly cited as good investments and successful in communities throughout Oregon and Washington.

Reality

■ Graffiti?

Sometimes yes,
sometimes no.

- Regular maintenance required
- Some skateparks have graffiti walls



Reality

■ Noisy?

- Skateboarding is about as noisy as a basketball court
- Generates less noise than surrounding traffic if sited more than 75 feet from residential areas.



Miller Playfield

Reality

- Not places of drinking and drug use
 - 17 interviews conducted with 12 skateparks in WA and OR - none said drinking and drug use are a problem

“The skatepark makes the park better. The more people there are the fewer people engage in illicit activities” - Portland

What about injuries?

- Injuries/100 Participants:

- Hockey 2.7
- Football 2.2
- Baseball 1.8
- Basketball 1.6
- Bicycling 1.1

- **Skateboarding 0.7***

- Skateboarders skating for less than a week account for 1/3 of all injuries
- Irregular riding surfaces account for over half the skateboarding injuries due to falls.
- In 2002, the Journal of Trauma concluded in their report that, "Skateboarding is a relatively safe sport."

What about liability?

- Liability for skateparks is just like any other public facility.
 - All sports are played “at your own risk”



So where do people in Seattle skate now?

Seattle Center



Ballard Bowl



They Build It Themselves

- Marginal Way



Future Seattle Parks Sites



Lower Woodland



Dahl Skatespot

Jefferson Park

Other Sites



River City Skatepark



Roosevelt Skatespot



Inner Space

Compared to other Seattle Parks recreation opportunities

Facility	Existing
Tennis Courts	150
Baseball/Softball fields	123
Football/soccer fields	85
Basketball courts	38 (whole or half courts)
Golf Courses (18 hole)	3
Lawn Bowling	2
Skateboard facilities	2 (1 more funded, 1 more not funded)

So how many skateboarders live in Seattle?

- Currently about 20,500
- In 2020 we project 24,000



Where are we in the planning process?



The Task Force



- Visited existing skateparks
- System of sizes of skateparks
- Drafted site criteria

A System of Skatepark Typologies



Skatedots

Integrated Skateable Terrain



- Small skateable elements
 - Along paths
 - Part of streetscape
 - In Parks

Skatespots

1,500 - to less than 10,000 sq. ft.



Donald, OR 2,500
sq. ft.



Milton 10,000 - photo courtesy of Dan Hughes

- Up to 13 users at a time
- Narrow range of skill abilities and terrain
- Similar in size to a single tennis court

District 10,000 - to less than 30,000 sq. ft.



Mukilteo - 20,000 sq. ft.



West Linn, OR - 14,000 sq. ft.

- Up to 13- 20 users at one time
- Wider range of skill abilities and terrain
- About the size of two tennis courts

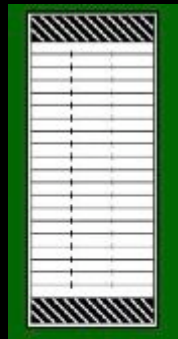
Regional Above 30,000 sq. ft.



Denver 60,000 sq. ft.

- Could accommodate 50-300 users at a time
- All styles of terrain
- All skill abilities
- Regional competitions
- Size in similar to Little League or football field

Recap - skate facilities compared in size to other sports facilities

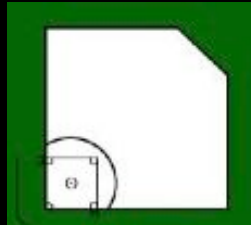


Football Field
57,600 sq. ft

Regional



Soccer Field
51,500 sq. Ft.



Little League
Baseball field
39,000 sq. ft.

District



Double tennis
court
13,200 sq. ft.

Skatespot



Single
Tennis
Court
7,300 sq. ft.



Full-court
Basketball
4,200 sq. ft.



Half-court
basketball
2,100 sq. ft.

Skate-
dot



The DRAFT site selection criteria

■ How the criteria were developed

Revised Criteria DRAFT	
Skatedots	Integrated Skateable Terrain up to 1,500 sq. ft.
Skatedots (unique criterion, not applicable to other typologies) seek to seamlessly integrate skateable terrain both into small neighborhood parks and throughout the city's non-park areas by identifying existing spaces that already are or that could be used for skating	
Skatespots	1,500 - 10,000 sq. ft.
Are compatible with existing uses (ex. Near an active area of the park rather than contemplative space), consider adjacent uses, and adjacent landscaping/surfaces are compatible with safe skate surfaces.	
Limit off-site impacts to residential communities as consistent with city code, i.e. noise and lighting	
Allow for clear, passive observation by parents, emergency services, police and the public	
Are in close proximity to public transit, and have good foot, bike and vehicular access	
Are easily developable and have minimal construction impediments	
Allow for the creation of a safe and secure environment providing for separation from vehicular traffic, vehicular and pedestrian access, and ease of routine maintenance	
Are located in a highly visible area with moderate to high pedestrian traffic, in an existing or new multi-purpose park, or in close proximity to other public facilities.	
Can be integrated into a larger park space that provides other park amenities	
Consider sun and shade and protection from rain and wind	
Include a space for size appropriate community viewing	
Consider the environment for the well-being of skateboarders, including noise and air quality	
District Skateparks	10,000 - 30,000 sq. ft.
ALL criteria listed above, plus:	
Offer adequate separation from other facilities/program at site	
Are in close proximity to water fountain, trashcans, restroom	
Offer potential space for nearby action-oriented sports activities and events, such as BMX or climbing	
Include the possibility of lighting, or integration with existing lighting	
Have expansion potential	
Have access to adequate parking	
Regional Skateparks	greater than 30,000 sq. ft.
ALL criteria listed above, plus:	
Promote action oriented sports activities and events	
Have the capacity for concessions	

Framework for Site Selection Criteria

- Sites will not:
 - replace/remove existing active uses (ex. Ball fields, tennis courts)
 - impact environmentally sensitive areas
- Sites will:
 - have adequate area available for appropriate size facility
 - Be distributed equitably geographically throughout the city
- Criteria were developed for the benefit of neighborhoods and skateboarders equally

Skatespot/Baseline Criteria

- Allow for observation
- Accessible
- Compatible with existing uses
- Limits impacts
- Safe & Secure
- Considers environment
- Integrated into larger park



Additional DISTRICT Criteria

- Adequate separation
- Close to amenities
- Potential for nearby action sports
- Possible lighting
- Expansion potential
- Parking



Additional REGIONAL Criteria

- Concessions
- Promote action oriented sports

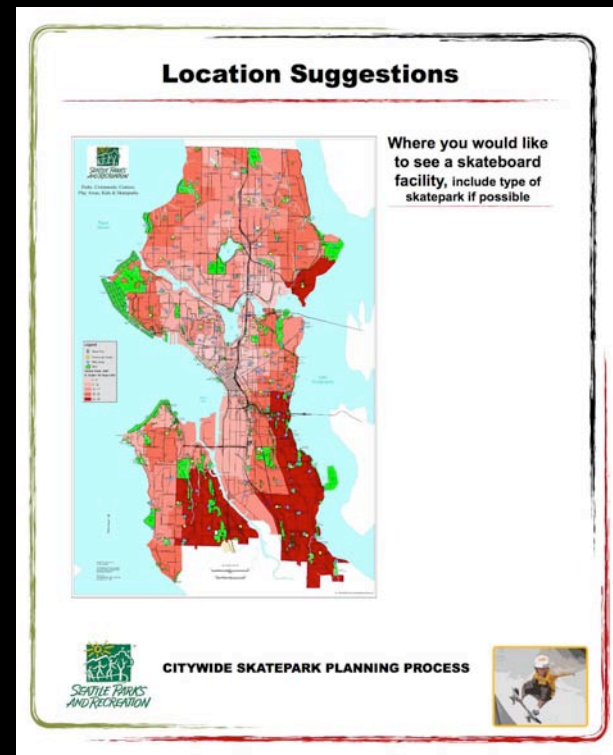


How you can participate



We want your feedback!

- Q&A session
- Input at stations



What's Next?



Re-Cap

- Revise and weight criteria
- Analyze site suggestions
- Present proposed sites in fall
- Revise proposed sites based on feedback
- Public Hearings
- City Council



Question & Answer



THANK YOU!
